

How can parents help?

- ✓ Discuss with your child throughout the summer holiday that they will be in a combined grade classroom in the new school year.
- ✓ Reassure your child that they will be with many of the same children from this school year.
- ✓ Communicate with the teacher about your child's individual learning needs.
- ✓ Talk to your child regularly about their experiences at school.
- ✓ Be familiar with the curricular outcomes. Alberta Education publishes curriculum handbooks and summaries for parents. <http://education.alberta.ca>
- ✓ Be informed about your child's progress in school. Review student work that comes home and participate in opportunities such as 'evidence of learning' and 'three-way conferences'.
- ✓ Volunteer in your child's school whenever possible.



For more information ...

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References

Alberta Education
Inspiring Education: A Dialogue with Albertans
inspiring.education.alberta.ca

Combined Class - Kelas Bercantum
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/17808164/Combined-Class-Kelas-Bercantum>

Lataile-Demore, D. (2007). *What works? Research into practice: Research Monograph #9: Combined Grade Classrooms*
The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat
Ontario Ministry of Education.

Veenman, S. (1995).
Cognitive and non-cognitive effects of multi-grade and multi-age classes:
A best evidence synthesis.
Review of Educational Research, 65(4).

Combined Grades

A Guide for Parents

“Albertans identified a vision for the future of education where all students are inspired to achieve success and fulfillment as **engaged thinkers** and **ethical citizens** with an **entrepreneurial spirit**.”

(Alberta, Education, 2013)



Many Parts ... One Body in Christ.
We are EICS.

What is a combined or multi-grade classroom?

Combined classrooms group students from two or more consecutive grade levels. All classrooms include children with a wide range of skills, abilities and attributes. A combined classroom is simply one of many ways that a school may organize or group students to meet their needs.



Why was my child chosen to be in a combined classroom?

The quality of teaching and learning in a combined classroom is no different than in a single grade classroom. Considerations for creating an optimum learning environment focus on children's learning profile including:

- ✓ learning styles
- ✓ learning needs
- ✓ social skills
- ✓ many other factors

What benefits can a combined classroom offer my child?

- ✓ continue to develop their independence, responsibility and leadership skills
- ✓ foster relationships beyond their own grade level
- ✓ reflect the world beyond school

Will all students' learning needs be met in a combined classroom?

To meet the diverse needs of students teachers use developmentally appropriate instructional strategies and assessments to create effective learning environments. In addition, many curricular outcomes are similar across grade levels enabling teachers to integrate instruction regardless of grade level.

What does the research say?

- ✓ Students in combined classrooms achieve as well academically as those in single grade classrooms.
- ✓ Students appear to benefit from the spirit of cooperation and mutual help that exists in a combined classroom.
- ✓ Instructional strategies that emphasize cooperative learning and subject integration support improved learning in the combined grade classroom. (Lataille-Demore, 2007)

Additional Information on Combined Grades

Learning and Teaching in the Multilevel Classroom
www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/docs/support/multilevel/chap1.pdf

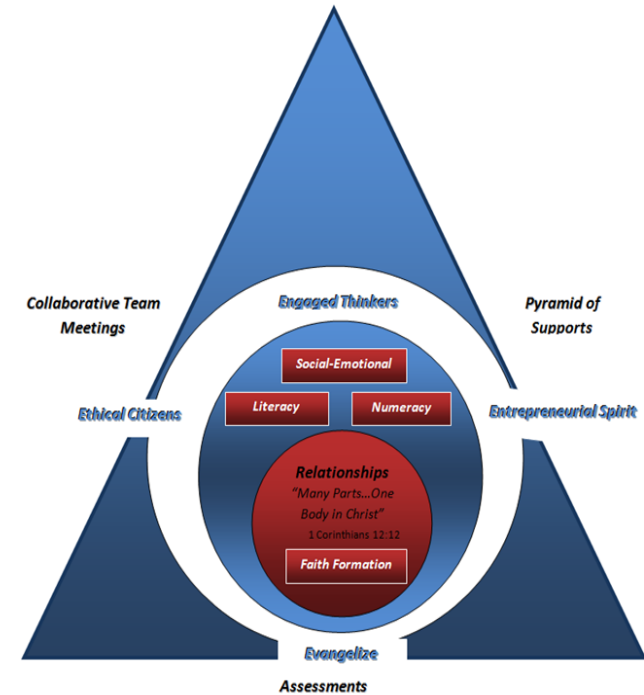
Combined Grades: Strategies to Reach a Range of Learners in Kindergarten to Grade 6
www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/combined.pdf



**ELK ISLAND
CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS**
Seeing Christ in Everyone

Ensuring Success for all Students

Faith Community of Engaged and Empowered Learners



EICS continues to support faith formation and student achievement through the Student Learning Services Divisional Model. Faith formation is at the core of our Catholic education community.

Literacy, numeracy and the social-emotional well being of all students are foundational to ensure *they not only have the knowledge to succeed, but skills and competencies demanded of their future world.* (Alberta, Education, 2013)

The end result is to achieve EICS' mission while meeting the Vision of Inspiring Education, "to have students graduate as Engaged Thinkers, Ethical Citizens with an Entrepreneurial Spirit."

**Joyful hearts Sharing the Good News.
We are EICS.**